

Loamy
~~DEEP SOIL~~
DESERT SHRUB
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

Land Resource Area Edwards Plateau

Location _____

Date January 1, 1972

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site occurs as broad, nearly level to gently sloping (0 to 3 percent) plains below the hills and mountains. Elevations range from 2000 to 3000 feet.
2. SOILS:
 - a. Soils of this site are deep loams and clay loams. Small calcium carbonate fragments occur on the surface and throughout the horizon with occasional stones on the surface. The soils are moderately permeable and have a high available water holding capacity and a good plant-soil-water-air relationship. If unprotected by plant cover, the soils crust badly, thus inhibiting infiltration and increasing runoff, contributing to sheet and gully erosion.
 - b. A soil taxonomic unit which characterizes this site is:
Reagan silty clay loam
 - c. Specific site location:
3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:
 - a. The climax vegetation characteristically occurs as sparse stands of drought tolerant perennial grasses, forbs, and shrubs. Ephemerals in small amounts are common components of the plant community. The climax plant community is dominated by short and mid grasses, with drought tolerant short grasses in dominance. Some climax forbs and woody vegetation occur occasionally in association with perennial grasses.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

| <u>Grasses</u> | <u>85% Woody</u> | <u>10% Forbs</u> | <u>5%</u> |
|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Sideoats grama | 10 | Fourwing saltbush | 5 |
| Cane bluestem | | Tarbrush | 5 |
| Plains bristlegrass | | | |
| Arizona cottontop | | Wolfberry | |
| | | Guayacan | |
| Tobosa | 15 | Catclaw | T |
| Burrograss | 15 | Allthorn | |
| Perennial threeawns | 20 | | |
| | | | Annual forbs T |
| Chino grama | 15 | | |
| Bush muhly | | | |
| Hairy tridens | 5 | | |
| Red grama | 5 | | |
| Annual grasses | T | | |

b. As retrogression occurs, creosotebush, mesquite, and annuals invade, with creosotebush often becoming dominant. Other common invaders are broom snakeweed, croton, ragweed, ear muhly, nightshades, and bitterweed.

c. Approximate total annual herbage yield varies from 640 pounds per acre air-dry weight, in unfavorable years to 880 pounds in favorable years.

4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: This site is inhabited by deer, dove, and quail.

5. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

| <u>Condition Class</u> | <u>Climax Vegetation</u> | <u>Ac/AU/Yr.L.</u> | <u>AU/Sec/Yr.L.</u> |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Excellent | 70-100 | 43-80 | 8-15 |
| Good | 51-75 | 64-107 | 6-10 |
| Fair | 25-50 | 80-213 | 3-8 |
| Poor | 0-25 | 160+ | 0-4 |

b. Seeded areas

| | <u>Percent Ground Cover</u> | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| | <u>100-76</u> | <u>75-51</u> | <u>50-26</u> | <u>25-0</u> |
| Mixtures (Ac/AU) | 43-80 | 64-107 | 80-213 | 160+ |

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES 1/

a. Cattle

| <u>Primary</u> | <u>Secondary</u> | <u>Low Value</u> |
|---------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Sideoats grama | Tobosa | Burrograss |
| Plains bristlegrass | Perennial threeawns | Hairy tridens |
| Cane bluestem | Bladderpod | Red grama |
| Arizona cottontop | Globemallow | Ear muhly |
| Bush muhly | Fourwing saltbush | Croton |
| Verbena | | Bitterweed |
| Menodora | | Ragweed |
| | | Nighshades |
| | | Twinleaf senna |
| | | Tarbush |
| | | Allthorn |
| | | Catclaw |
| | | Wolfberry |

b. Sheep

| <u>Primary</u> | <u>Secondary</u> | <u>Low Value</u> |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Menodora | Cane bluestem | Tobosa |
| Verbena | Arizona cottontop | Perennial threeawns |
| Globemallow | Bush muhly | Ear muhly |
| Bladderpod | Red grama | Burrograss |
| Chino grama | Twinleaf senna | Broom snakeweed |
| Hairy tridens | Guayacan | Nighshades |
| Sideoats grama | Tarbush | Croton |
| Plains bristlegrass | Wolfberry | Allthorn |
| Fourwing saltbush | Catclaw | Bitterweed |
| | | Mesquite |

c. Goats

| <u>Primary</u> | <u>Secondary</u> | <u>Low Value</u> |
|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Fourwing saltbush | Catclaw | Burrograss |
| Guayacan | Wolfberry | Perennial threeawns |
| Menodora | Cane bluestem | Tobosa |
| Verbena | Chino grama | Red grama |
| Globemallow | Hairy tridens | Annual grasses |
| Bladderpod | | Twinleaf senna |
| Sideoats grama | | Broom snakeweed |
| Plains bristlegrass | | Croton |
| Arizona cottontop | | Nightshade |
| Bush muhly | | Bitterweed |
| | | Creosotebush |
| | | Mesquite |

1/ Definitions of terms and an explanation of interpretations is given on a separate page which is attached or submitted with each group of range site descriptions.

d. Deer

Primary

Menodora
Verbena
Globemallow
Hadderpod
Some annual forbs
Guayacan
Fourwing saltbush

Secondary

Wolfberry
Catclaw
Sideoats grama
Cane bluestem
Arizona cottontop
Plains bristlegrass
Bush muhly
Croton
Twinleaf senna

Low Value

Perennial threeawn
Tobosa
Red grama
Broom snakeweed
Burrograss
Silverleaf nightshade
Allthorn
Tarbush
Bitterweed

e. Javelina

Primary

Roots of perennial
grasses and forbs
Most of most woody shrubs

Secondary

Perennial grasses
Perennial forbs

Low Value

Most shrubs
Annual grasses
Annual forbs